

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /034 W
-----013769 040600Z /17

R 031943Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2899

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR VE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PANAM 747 CARGO SERVICE TO MARACAIBO

1. DIRECTOR OF AIR TRANSPORT HAS INFORMED PANAM CARACAS TODAY THAT AUTHORITY FOR B-747 ALL-CARGO SERVICE TO MARACAIBO IS BEING DENIED BECAUSE OF TECHNICAL REASONS AND BECAUSE OF FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THE 30-DAY TIME INTERVAL STIPULATED IN MEMORANDUM OF CONSULTATION OF DECEMBER 21, 1971.

2. THE TECHNICAL REASONS WERE NOT CITED BUT VERBALLY HAVE BEEN GIVEN AS RELATED TO RUNWAY RESISTANCE (INADEQUATE TO SUPPORT A LOADED B-747) AND TO LOCATION OF CERTAIN LIGHTS.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: THE AIRPORT AT MARACAIBO IS CERTIFICATED FOR AIRCRAFT UP TO DC-8-63 SIZE, ALTHOUGH VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT ENFORCED THIS CERTIFICATION LIMIT, AND VIASA REGULARLY FLIES THE HEAVIER DC-10-30 INTO THE AIRPORT. IN VIEW OF THIS CASUAL OFFICIAL APPROACH, THE TECHNICAL REASONS GIVEN FOR REFUSAL COULD BE A PRETENSE. HOWEVER, THE AIRPORT MANAGER OF MARACAIBO TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE DOUBTS THAT RUNWAY AND TAXIWAY HAVE SUFFICIENT RESISTANCE FOR A 747 CARGO AIRCRAFT. HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT A PROBLEM WITH LIGHTS.

4. EMBASSY HAS RECOMMENDED THAT PANAM FOLLOW TWO APPROACHES:

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(A) OFFER TO MAKE AVAILABLE A PANAM EXPERT ON AIRPORTS TO ASSIST GOV IN DETERMINING WHETHER TECHNICAL PROBLEMS DO EXIST; AND (B) DISCUSS WITH PANAM HEADQUARTERS POSSIBILITY OF REFILING, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT 30-DAY DEADLINE.
CROWLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT, AIRPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CARACA06234
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780275-0065
Format: TEL
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197807100/aaaadgvw.tel
Line Count: 60
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ef44c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1848396
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: PANAM 747 CARGO SERVICE TO MARACAIBO
TAGS: EAIR, VE, PANAM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ef44c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014